

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, mental illnesses, including depression, panic, eating, and other disorders, and schizophrenia, are treatable medical conditions that interfere with a person's ability to relate to others and cope with life; and

WHEREAS, people of all ages, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds are affected by mental disorders, with approximately one in five South Carolinians suffering from a diagnosable mental illness; and

WHEREAS, early identification and proper treatment, including medication, counseling, self-help groups, and community services, are vital to the recovery of these patients; and

WHEREAS, mental health centers and private hospitals across the Palmetto State offer free depression screening for our residents on October 7, 2004.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 4 - 10, 2004, as

MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of the importance of early diagnosis and proper treatment of mental illnesses to the quality of life of affected individuals and their families.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", is written over a horizontal line.

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA